

**Office of Community Development**  
**SFO #1073040-01**  
**Addendum No. 1**

**Written Inquiries & Responses for**  
**Hurricane Laura – Program Management and Consulting Engineering Services for**  
**Louisiana Community Water Systems Recovery Projects**

1. Is Natchitoches considered an impacted area per the desired requirements under Section 1.4?

**Answer:** Yes, Natchitoches was one of the areas impacted by Hurricane Laura.

2. The selection criteria seem to use price as one of the selection factors for professional engineering services. Please clarify how this will conform to RS 38:2318.1, which prohibits the use of price as a factor in the selection of design professional services such as engineering.

§2318.1. Louisiana "No Bidding of Design Professional Services" policy

A. It is the policy of the state of Louisiana, its political subdivisions, and agencies to select providers of design professional services on the basis of competence and qualifications for a fair and reasonable price. Neither the state nor any of its political subdivisions or agencies may select providers of design services wherein price or price-related information is a factor in the selection.

The evaluation criteria do break out the technical approach score separately from the cost score, but both scores seem to be totaled in determining the overall score for each firm. I can't find anything in the Governor's proclamation 108-JBE-2020 relating to Hurricane Laura or in RS 39:1598 relating to emergency procurement that waives the RS 38:2318.1 provisions.

**Answer:** While engineering services may be required, the services being procured through the SFO are primarily program management services in the management and implementation of the program. La. R.S. 38:2318.1 does not apply to this solicitation.

3. Will a firm's involvement under this SFO's scope prohibit the firm from working on future projects associated with the system's recovery?

**Answer:** The general rule for Federal financial assistance is that contractors that develop draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, invitations for bids or requests for proposals are prohibited from competing for the final procurement. For instance, a professional engineer or architect who prepared the Preliminary Engineering Report for an application would be excluded from bidding on the same work under the award. Additionally, a company assisting the state in administering the funding to a system cannot also participate in the work being funded through its activities.

See also La. R.S. 39:1603, which provides as follows:

§1603. Limitations on consultants competing for contracts

A. Any person contracting with an agency for the purposes of developing bidding documents, requests for proposals, or any other type of solicitation related to a specific

procurement shall be prohibited from bidding, proposing, or otherwise competing for award of that procurement. Such persons shall further be prohibited from participating as subcontractors related to the award of that procurement.

B. For the purposes of this Section, the following activities shall not be considered "developing bidding documents, requests for proposals, or any other type of solicitation":

- (1) Architectural and engineering programming.
- (2) Master planning.
- (3) Budgeting.
- (4) Feasibility analysis.
- (5) Constructability review.
- (6) Furnishing specification data or other product information.
- (7) Any other services that do not establish selection qualifications or evaluation criteria for the procurement of an architect or engineer.

4. Does the State intend on selecting more than one Prime Contractor for this scope?

**Answer:** As indicated on page 2 of the SFO, Division of Administration/Office of Community Development "may or may not result in an award of a contract/purchase order. OCD reserves the right to make multiple awards, as deemed in the best interest of the State." There is no guarantee of any level of work and no exclusive right to work.

5. What is the geographic area in which this scope is limited?

**Answer:** The geographic area involved in this SFO is the areas of Louisiana impacted by Hurricane Laura.

6. Does the State currently have a quantity of CWS to be assessed?

**Answer:** As of September 3, 2020, the number of water systems are estimated from 50 – 100.

7. Do you require a form to fill out or just prose [SIC]?

**Answer:** Please refer to Sec. 2.3 of the SFO, pages 7-8 for required submission.

8. Will OCD consider extending the Emergency Solicitation for Offers response due date/time of September 4, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. CDT? Could a deadline of September 8, 2020 at 10:00 AM be considered?

**Answer:** No, we do not anticipate extending the due date for proposal submission, which is 2 PM on, September 4, 2020.

9. Is there a number I could speak to someone on this request?

**Answer:** No, all questions must be submitted in writing, per 2.1 of the SFO, page 7.

10. Will OCD consider adding a Job Classification for a Senior Field Technician with at least 20 years of experience in the fields of construction inspection, operation and technical support of Public Water Systems?

**Answer:** No, only classifications included in the SFO can be used.

11. Will OCD consider adding a Job Classification for a Mid-Level Field Technician with at least 10 years of experience in the fields of construction inspection, operation and technical support of Public Water Systems?

**Answer:** No, only classifications included in the SFO can be used.

12. Will OCD consider adding a Job Classification for a Junior Field Technician with at least 5 years of experience in the fields of construction inspection, operation and technical support of Public Water Systems?

**Answer:** No, only classifications included in the SFO can be used.

13. Will OCD consider adding a Job Classification for a Class 4 Water System Operator under the categories of Water Production, Water Distribution and Water Treatment, in accordance with LAC 48:V. Chapter 73?

**Answer:** No, only classifications included in the SFO can be used.

14. Would OCD be amenable to adding additional classifications after award as the need arises to address technical and programmatic issues after assessments are underway?

**Answer:** No, only classifications included in the SFO can be used.

15. The solicitation for offers includes several references to “*Providing construction oversight including inspection and testing*”, “*identification and oversight of contractor firms for the implementation of the CWS project report for the repair replacement and restoration of CWS*”, etc. Is it the intention that the Solicitation for Offers include construction related services?

**Answer:** The SFO does not include any construction services. The successful proposer will be responsible for program management, which will include oversight of construction activities by others including testing and inspection per **Attachment 1 – Scope of Work/Services**. For clarity, however, “oversight of construction activities” should not be misconstrued as construction management. The offeror is not required to have a Louisiana contractor’s license.

16. What is the approximate budget available for implementing these professional services?

**Answer:** There is no approximate budget available.

17. Requirements of Offerors vs. Job Classifications Descriptions:

- a. Please clarify the requirement for the Principal/Program Manager Job Classification.
- b. Section 1.4.c.(i) states “(i) Program Manager shall be a qualified professional engineer licensed by the State of Louisiana to perform Field Observation and Oversight;”

- c. However, Page 18 states under the Job Classifications Experience: “Education: Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in a business, engineering or technical discipline.” Along with “Experience: 15 years’ experience leading major programs, projects, or business units.”
- d. Please confirm if the Principal/Program Manager must be a “qualified professional engineer licensed by the State of Louisiana”.

**Answer:** The Principal/Program Manager must be a qualified professional engineer as is stated in the Mandatory Requirements under 1.4 on page 5 of the SFO.